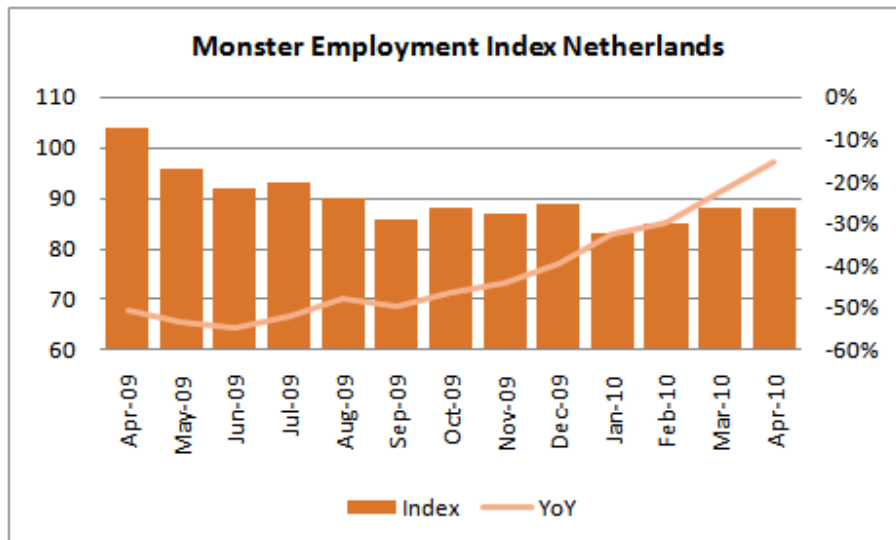


Report Summary

- The Monster Employment Index Netherlands was unchanged between March and April as overall employer demand for workers held steady with the progression of the spring season.
- The long-term trend of decline continues to ease. While the rate of annual decline in April was 15 percent, it is nonetheless an improvement from the 22 percent rate seen in March, reflecting a strengthening in underlying demand for labor in the Dutch job market. Comparatively, the year-on-year rate of decline for the EU Index as a whole was 3 percent in April.
- Heightened worker demand was observed in a number of sectors, with R&D showing the steepest monthly rise. Other technical sectors, like IT and Engineering, were unchanged on a monthly basis and lower year-on-year.
- Online recruitment activity continued to escalate in Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair; and Transport, post and logistics, suggesting continued improvement in business conditions among firms connected to manufacturing and exports.
- Online demand grew most on the month for plant and machine operators, and assemblers occupations in April; year-on-year, elementary occupations exhibited positive improvement, reflecting relatively favorable job creation trends for entry-level and lower-skilled workers across a number of industries.

Monster Employment Index Netherlands results for the past 13 months are as follows:

Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10	Dec 09	Nov 09	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09
88	88	85	83	89	87	88	86	90	93	92	96	104



Economic Overview

- Most indicators suggest that the Dutch economy remains on a path of gradual, if not stalled recovery. Strong positives come in the form of elevated industrial production through the first quarter of the year, as well as an ongoing positive trade balance. This coincides with ongoing expansion in online recruitment in sectors like production and transportation. However, these signals are counterbalanced by somewhat weak household conditions. Statistics Netherlands reported unemployment of 6.1 percent for the January-March period of this year,

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up from 4.4 percent a year ago. Additionally, household consumption was down year-on-year in the most recent reading, aligning with the weaker online recruitment trends in sectors like sales.

Industry Sectors

- Online job availability rose in nine of the 19 industry sectors monitored by the Index between March and April. Year-on-year, however, only two industry sectors avoided decline.
- Research and development led all sectors with monthly gains in the April Index. The April increase is likely due in part to seasonality, with sector employers typically initiating a spring recruitment cycle around this time, following a period of more stagnant activity in the earlier months of the year. The longer-term trend is encouraging, with online demand up substantially year-on-year.
- Marketing, PR and media registered the another monthly increase, rising three points, or six percent in the April Index to extend the step-wise uptrend observed in the sector since June of last year. The overall opportunity level in the sector remains extremely restrained, but the ongoing improvement suggests demand for marketing-related services is gradually escalating as the economy improves.
- Transport, post and logistics; and Production, manufacturing, maintenance and repair noted rises in online recruitment levels in April, extending their respective multi-month up-trends. From a longer-term perspective, a continued moderation in downtrends can be observed. Year-on-year, the sectors are only down in the Index by 11 percent and 20 percent, respectively, which reflects a dramatic improvement from annual rates seen in previous months, and suggests underlying demand for labor in sectors related to manufacturing and exports is improving.
- Accounting, audit, and taxes extended its stagnant trend in the April Index. Job availability in the sector has either held steady or decreased in every month since early 2008, reflecting substantial deceleration in job creation and churn within the accounting/finance workforce. In contrast, Banking, finance, insurance exhibited a marginal gain on the month, and is up 13 percent over the past 3 months in the Index.
- Demand trends in other professional service sectors was mixed. Engineering and IT held steady on the month, while Legal slipped most among all sectors in the April Index.

Top Industries Looking for Workers

Month-on-month

Industry	Apr 10	Mar 10	%
Research and development	88	81	9%
Marketing, PR and media	56	53	6%
Transport, post and logistics	126	120	5%
Agriculture, fishing, forestry	134	130	3%
Administrative, organisation	69	67	3%

Year-on-year

Industry	Apr 10	Apr 09	%
Marketing, PR and media	56	47	19%
Research and development	88	76	16%
Education, training and library	161	172	-6%
Agriculture, fishing, forestry	134	145	-8%
HR	47	51	-8%

Occupational Groups

- Online job demand strengthened on the month in seven of the 9 occupational groups. Year-on-year, however, only one group exhibited a positive gain.
- Elementary occupation registered the highest rate of increase, rising 16 points, or nine percent, to reach its highest level since last October. Year-on-year, the occupational group is up 11 percent, lifted by demand for entry-level and low-skilled workers from a wide array of industries. The hospitality/tourism sector was a strong driver in the latest month.
- Service and sales workers also exhibited a monthly gain in the April Index, likewise resulting from increased seasonal hiring in the hospitality/tourism sector.
- Professionals saw demand levels remains steady between March and April. The medium-term trend is marginally positive, with an uptick of three percent over the past 3 months, but reflects a notably muted recruitment cycle for a number of white-collar occupations which normally see an expansion in online opportunities during springtime.
- Craft and related trades workers rebounded slightly in the April Index, but the occupational group continues to exhibit the steepest annual decline in the Index, reflecting ongoing challenges in the job market for skilled tradesmen and assorted creative professionals.

Most Wanted Occupational Experience

Month-on-month

Occupation	Apr 10	Mar 10	%
Elementary occupations	198	182	9%
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	66	64	3%
Clerical support workers	107	104	3%

Year-on-year

Occupation	Apr 10	Apr 09	%
Elementary occupations	198	178	11%
Service and sales workers	115	121	-5%
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	66	70	-6%

Regional Indices

- Six of the 12 Dutch regions monitored by the Index saw increased online job availability in April.
- Drenthe registered the highest rate of increase month-to-month, adding three points, or three percent, as demand rebounded from a weaker March level. However, year-on-year declines in the Drenthe market remain steeper than the national average.
- Zeeland edged up by 2 points between March and April, and exhibited the mildest annual decline of all regions in the April Index.
- Limburg, which led all regions in monthly growth in the March Index, was the only region to register a monthly decline in the April Index.

Best Regions for Jobs

Month-on-month

Region	Apr 10	Mar 10	%
Drenthe	110	107	3%
Zeeland	130	127	2%
Friesland	99	97	2%
Groningen	119	117	2%

Year-on-year

Region	Apr 10	Apr 09	%
Zeeland	130	140	-7%
Groningen	119	138	-14%
Noord-Brabant	86	101	-15%
Limburg	85	100	-15%

Industry Sectors

Industry	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10	Dec 09	Nov 09	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09
Accounting, audit, taxes	80	80	81	83	87	87	89	89	94	95	96	100	108
Administrative, organisation	69	67	69	67	72	70	71	72	74	75	75	82	89
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	134	130	122	111	116	120	126	135	139	149	141	143	145
Banking, finance, insurance	45	44	43	40	43	41	42	40	46	48	48	48	49
Construction and extraction	66	68	65	63	68	69	65	67	70	72	72	75	77
Education, training and library	161	162	159	153	158	152	162	141	150	161	152	161	172
Engineering	89	89	88	86	89	89	87	85	89	92	94	99	102
Healthcare, social work	233	235	233	253	269	259	283	262	270	281	249	242	260
Hospitality and tourism	159	155	152	141	144	162	166	163	164	174	166	171	176
HR	47	47	49	50	51	49	48	45	45	46	46	49	51
IT	81	81	79	76	78	78	79	78	82	84	86	88	99
Legal	125	131	147	138	159	149	143	148	159	159	149	148	165
Management and consulting	81	80	79	79	84	80	81	79	83	87	88	90	101
Marketing, PR and media	56	53	50	50	49	49	48	45	46	45	45	46	47
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	140	138	138	135	143	139	141	136	141	144	146	152	176
Public sector, defence, community	136	138	131	123	133	140	142	144	153	164	165	159	176
Research and development	88	81	82	82	100	86	85	67	70	76	70	69	76
Sales	94	95	90	88	94	91	91	87	91	94	92	96	103
Transport, post and logistics	126	120	119	111	122	121	122	117	131	134	126	130	141

Occupational Groups

Occupation	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10	Dec 09	Nov 09	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09
Managers	81	80	77	78	84	82	80	77	80	83	83	86	95
Professionals	95	95	93	92	97	95	96	93	97	101	101	104	111
Technicians and associate professionals	70	70	69	68	72	71	71	69	73	74	73	75	79
Clerical support workers	107	104	106	101	111	106	111	111	117	118	115	125	137
Service and sales workers	115	112	103	95	104	109	113	112	114	125	121	117	121
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	187	185	171	158	166	173	186	202	211	224	214	217	224
Craft and related workers	153	151	155	151	161	159	164	160	169	173	175	186	214
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	66	64	61	61	65	65	64	63	65	66	68	73	70
Elementary occupations	198	182	176	162	173	179	213	198	190	195	185	184	178

Regional Indices

Region	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10	Dec 09	Nov 09	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09
Drenthe	110	107	109	107	112	110	112	106	111	120	118	125	135
Flevoland	98	98	97	97	104	103	104	102	101	109	115	114	124
Friesland	99	97	94	92	100	98	99	96	99	108	112	116	125
Gelderland	92	93	92	90	95	94	97	93	98	105	105	108	115
Groningen	119	117	113	113	119	119	119	115	113	121	123	128	138
Limburg	85	86	80	78	81	81	83	82	90	93	90	94	100
Noord-Brabant	86	86	84	82	87	86	85	81	92	91	88	92	101
Noord-Holland	63	62	61	59	66	64	64	62	64	66	66	69	75
Overijssel	101	100	102	97	105	103	104	99	101	105	108	111	128
Utrecht	87	87	87	86	91	90	92	89	93	97	97	101	110
Zeeland	130	127	125	125	131	127	132	128	141	136	131	140	140
Zuid-Holland	79	79	77	75	79	78	79	79	83	86	86	90	99